May 2004

DTSC is one of six Boards and

Union Carbide Corporation Facility Heil Separator Area Torrance, California



Please comment on soil cleanup plan



The photo is of the Heil Separator unit from northwest side of the UCC facility.

We invite the public to review and comment on a plan to clean up chemicals in the soil and groundwater at the Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) facility. The site is approximately 37 acres. Chemicals produced by the facility were released from an oil-water separation unit, known as the Heil Separator, resulting in contamination of soil and groundwater. The unit, which is just over one acre in size, has since been repaired and these chemicals are no longer produced or handled at the facility. The size of the UCC property undergoing investigation and remediation activities is 17 acres, which includes the Heil Separator Area. This fact sheet will discuss the proposed clean up activities for this 17 acre property.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Our role is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the investigation and any possible cleanup of the Union Carbide Corporation site.

Departments with in the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and

State of California

overseeing

cleanups, and

developing and

promoting

pollution

prevention.



California **Environmental Protection Agency**



Public Comment Period

May 21, 2002 through June 21, 2004

The cleanup proposal, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and a draft Negative Declaration is available for your review and comment.

Please tell us what you think about the draft cleanup plan (RAW). Page 3 of this fact sheet tells vou where to find the documents and how to send us your comments.

The Union Carbide Corporation is located at 19500 Mariner Avenue, in Torrance; two schools are half a mile away and one hospital is a mile away. The facility is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company.

The site investigation and cleanup team is made up of our agency, the current landowner (Union Carbide Corporation) and their contractors. Union Carbide Corporation is paying for the investigation and any cleanup that may be needed.

Union Carbide Corporation entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with us in April, 1996 to investigate and clean up the site. This agreement currently includes quarterly removal of chemicals from the groundwater and testing the groundwater each year. The groundwater tests have shown the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The latest tests showed these chemicals of concern may be moving between existing wells. The facility agreed to install an additional groundwater monitoring well to help determine the extent to which these chemicals are moving. Concentrations of these chemicals in the latest tests range from non-detectable (ND) to 12 parts per million (ppm).

The remedial objectives of the RAW are to remove these chemicals to the maximum extent practical, to prevent human contact or inhalation of these chemicals, to ensure that conditions at the facility do not change as to threaten human health and/or the environment, and to restore water quality to beneficial use objectives.

What Chemicals were found at the Site

In November 1989, contaminated soils were found during a sewer tie-in near the Heil Separator that was part of the waste water treatment unit at the site. Soil samples were found to contain PAHs and several other chemicals. In addition, soil sampling results revealed the following volatile chemicals found at 10 feet below grade surface: toluene at 0.7 ppm, ethylbenzene at 6.0 ppm and xylenes at 1.4 ppm. Approximately 130 tons of contaminated soil were excavated from the area and sent to a

Class 1 Hazardous Waste Landfill or treated on site by land farming.

Current results for testing of the groundwater revealed the following chemicals in the shallow (perched) groundwater:

- benzene at up to 2.1 ppm,
- ethylbenzene at up to 0.8 ppm,
- xylenes at up to 0.3 ppm,
- naphthalene at up to 12 ppm,
- styrene at up to 2.7 ppm,
- and toluene at up to 2.0 ppm.

Additionally, a pure mixture consisting primarily of these chemicals which detected in two of the perched groundwater monitoring wells beneath the Heil Separator Area. These pure chemicals, or hydrocarbons, are referred to as dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) when present in the groundwater. None of these chemicals were detected in the deeper groundwater.

Possible health effects of the Chemicals

Benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, styrene, toluene, and xylenes are all liquids at room temperature. They all have aromatic, sweet odors. Naphthalene has a strong coal tar odor similar to moth balls. These chemicals may cause a variety of health effects at high concentrations.

The following information is a general summary of possible health effects of these compounds. Benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, styrene, toluene, and xylenes cause eye and skin irritation from dermal contact. Inhalation of vapors from these chemicals can cause headaches, dizziness, drowsiness, and nausea as well as respiratory irritation. They are also known to cause liver, kidney, and blood effects. Long-term overexposure to benzene has been associated with certain types of leukemia in humans.

History of the facility's operations

Union Carbide Corporation manufactured polyethylene and ethylene glycol at the facility from when it was built in 1956 until 1982, when the manufacturing operations were discontinued and much of the facility was removed under the oversight of the California Department of Health Services. Approximately half of the original property was then sold and redeveloped, primarily as office space and retail businesses. The remainder of the Site, which includes the Heil Separator Area, is now part of a chemical distribution facility. The distribution operation includes 56 above ground tanks and an ethanol blending area.

In 1989, an underground pipe coming from the Heil Separator unit was discovered to be leaking, causing contamination of the soil and groundwater. In addition to the soil removal action, UCC completed various soil and groundwater investigations at the facility since that time to fully characterize the impacted areas and to remove the chemicals.

Since entering into the voluntary cleanup agreement in 1996 UCC also completed a remedial investigation, a human health risk assessment, annual groundwater testing, quarterly groundwater gauging and DNAPL removal, a focused feasibility study, and the proposed RAW under this program.

We plan more cleanups and testing at the site

We will do further evaluations to find out more about the cleanup activities and if they are working after implementing this proposed RAW. Monitored natural reduction is the proposed remedy for groundwater contamination. The proposed RAW is for a temporary removal action of the free products known as dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL). The final remediation will be conducted after the implementation of a new RAW or Removal Action Plan (RAP).

More information at our agency's office

We invite you to learn more about what is happening at the Union Carbide Corporation site. The reports and other information are the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503, Telephone: (310) 618-5959 and at our agency's office at 5796 Corporate Avenue in Cypress. Please call Julie Johnson in the File Room at (714) 484-5337 to make an appointment. File Room hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Who to call at our agency

If you have questions about the site, please call or e-mail:

Leticia Hernandez Public Participation Specialist (714) 484-5488

E-mail: lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov

Johnson P. Abraham Project Manager (714) 484-5746

E-mail: jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Jeanne Garcia Public Information Officer (818) 551-2176

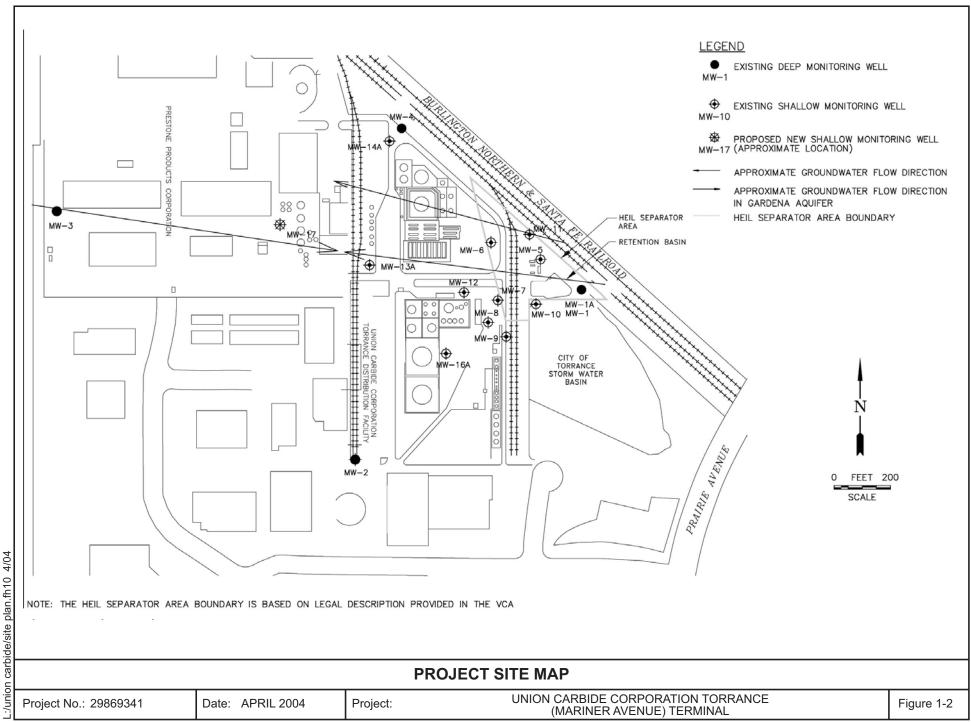
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Leticia Hernández al número (714) 484-5488.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Leticia Hernandez at (714) 484-5488.





COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

Union Carbide Corporation Torrance, California Draft Removal Action Workplan and Proposed Negative Declaration

You may use this sheet to:

- send us your comments
- be added to or taken off the mailing list (NOTE: if you received this fact sheet in the mail, then you are already on the mailing list and don't need to be added.)

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. All written comments must be postmarked no later than **June 21**, **2004**. Please send this form to Johnson Abraham, Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California, 90630. You may also e-mail this same information to: jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov.

Please take me off the mailing list
Please add me to the mailing list
Name:
Address:
Affiliation (if any):
Phone number (optional):
Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

Our mailings are used only for keeping you informed of our activities. We do not routinely release our mailing lists to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.



State of California
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Leticia Hernandez
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

INSIDE: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN ON THE UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION (UCC)
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA